CITY OF WELLS.

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Urban Sanitary Authority.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1925.

To the Urban Sanitary Authority of the City of Wells.

March, 1926.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the City for 1925 ; this report is termed a Survey Report and is meant to compare the different subjects bearing on the health of the City during the last five years.

The area of the City is 719.150 acres, this area has remained unchanged during the five years.

Population :—	1921				4299
,,	1922				4289
,,	1923				4346
,,	1924				4390
,,	1925				4388

Number of inhabited houses :—	1921				1114
,, ,,	1922				1138
,, ,,	1923				1163
,, ,,	1924				1173
,, ,,	1925				1179

Rateable Value :—	1921				£21,998	
,,	1922				£27,368	
,,	1923				£25,758	11 8
,,	1924				£25,946	6 8
,,	1925				£26,020	11 8

Sum represented by a Penny Rate :—	1921				£85		
,, ,,	1922				£100		
,, ,,	1923				£100	10	0
,, ,,	1924				£100	10	0
,, ,,	1925				£101	1	9

Total births during 1921		41 males.	39 females.	Total 80.
Total births during 1922		47 males.	27 females.	Total 74.
Total births during 1923		43 males.	37 females.	Total 80.
Total births during 1924		48 males.	38 females.	Total 86.
Total births during 1925		28 males.	35 females.	Total 63.

Illegitimate births :—	1921				None
,,	1922				7—4 males and 3 females
,,	1923				4—2 males and 2 females
,,	1924				2—2 males
,,	1925				2—1 male and 1 female

The Birth Rate per thousand of the population was :—			1921		18.14
,,	,,	,,	1922		17.25
,,	,,	,,	1923		18.41
,,	,,	,,	1924		19.59
,,	,,	,,	1925		14.36

During 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924 there were no deaths of women owing to pregnancy or childbirth. During 1925 there was one such case.

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis in the five years.

Deaths in the City	1921	24 males.	26 females.	Total 50.	Death Rate	11.63	
,,	1922	33 males.	27 females.	Total 60.	Death Rate	13.99	
,,	1923	27 males.	18 females.	Total 45.	Death Rate	10.35	
,,	1924	24 males.	33 females.	Total 57.	Death Rate	12.98	
,,	1925	35 males.	43 females.	Total 78.	Death Rate	17.78	

The increased number of deaths in 1925 and the higher death rate were caused by the large number of old people who died in the year. Of the total number of 78 deaths, 41 were of persons over 65 years old.

There were 9 deaths of persons between 65 and 70 years old.
There were 16 deaths of persons between 70 and 80 years old.
There were 13 deaths of persons between 80 and 90 years old.
There were 2 deaths of persons between 90 and 100 years old.
There was one death of a person over 100 years old.
There were 3 deaths of infants under 12 months old—one male and 2 females, these 3 children were all legitimate.

One child, a girl, was 3 months old at death, the cause of death was whooping-cough.

One child, a girl, was nine months old at death, the cause of death was a congenital defect.

One child, a boy, was 9 months old at death, the cause of death was acute bronchitis.

The infant mortality was	62.5	per thousand births in	1921
,,	40.54	,,	1922
,,	25	,,	1923
,,	23.26	,,	1924
,,	47.62	,,	1925

The following infectious diseases were notified during 1925 :—

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlatina	1	1	0
Diphtheria	7	0	1
Enteric Fever	1	0	1
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	6	7
Other Tuberculosis	4	3	0

In 1921 there were 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified with 2 deaths.

In 1922 there were 7 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified with 1 death.

In 1923 there were 13 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified with 2 deaths.

In 1924 there were 13 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified with 3 deaths.

In 5 cases of diphtheria in 1925 antitoxin was supplied by the Public Health Authority.

There were no cases ophthalmia neonatorum notified in 1925.

There is an Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Burcott Road, Wells, provided by the City.

Just without the City Boundaries is the Wells and District Hospital, this Hospital contains 17 beds and has an operating theatre. It is supported by voluntary contributions and the payment of patients.

There is a proposal to enlarge this Hospital during 1926.

Within the City is the Poor Law Infirmary with 50 beds.

During 1925 about £900 was expended in Poor Law Relief.

A horse ambulance is used to remove infectious cases to the Isolation Hospital, and there is a motor ambulance in connection with the Wells and District Hospital for non-infectious cases.

There is a child-welfare centre for Wells and the surrounding district of which the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District is in charge.

The Health Officers of the City are a part time Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector, who is also City Surveyor. In the City is a Nursing Association supported by voluntary contributions. This Association provides a General District Nurse and a Maternity Nurse, when necessary these nurses are helped by V.A.D. nurses who had experience during the War.

The following Acts in connection with Public Health have been adopted by the City :—Public Health Act (Amendment Act) 1890. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.

The following Byelaws are in force in the City :—In connection with Slaughter Houses (May 10th, 1898) cleansing of footways and pavements, the removal of house refuse, the cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools (March 1899). Nuisances (June 1898) preventing waste of, undue consumption or contamination of water (June 1903) Regulations for dairies, cowsheds and milk shops (May 1900). Regulations as to the mode in which communication between the drain of an owner or occupier and the sewers of the City is to be made (May 1921).

In the matter of School clinics, treatment of tubercular cases and venereal cases the City comes under the County Schemes.

HOUSING.

In addition to the 24 houses mentioned in my last report erected on the Wookey Hole Road Housing Site under the 1919 Assisted Scheme, eight more houses are being erected and are nearly completed.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Works are situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles West of the City at Burcott. They consist of a Receiving Chamber with an overflow for Stormwater, two Detritus Tanks, three Chemical Precipitation Tanks, with a total capacity of 187,000 gallons, four contact beds, 100×70 ft., three Sand Beds used as Secondary Tanks, 100×60ft. One percolating Filter when full containing 734 cubic yards of media, two Storm Water Tanks, and about ten acres of land for irrigation.

The Six new Cresset Rotary Sprinklers put down last year work excellently.

The Wilts United Dairies have now in use a scheme on their own land for treating their waste, comprising one 75ft. Rotary Sprinkler with media 6ft. deep with the necessary tanks ejectors, etc.

The Sewers of the City are in good working order.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging in the City is carried out daily by means of a motor lorry.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water is obtained at the foot of the Mendip Hills $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away from the City and it gravitates to two storage reservoirs about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away and situated at Milton.

The Corporation acting under expert advice have been engaged in sinking a borehole, about 500 ft. away from their existing spring. At the last test pumping it was found that the hole was yielding about 13,000 gallons per day, and the Corporation are arranging for the borehole to be further proceeded with in order to increase this quantity.

The inflow to the reservoirs from the existing spring is 264,000 gallons per day.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses from all sources erected during the year	5
Number of houses inspected under Housing Act during year	19
Number found defective but not unfit	19

MILK.

Number of distributors	5
Number of producers	Nil.
Steps taken to make register a complete one	Inspection.
Who undertakes the milk inspections and if any additional or special staff provided	Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING ACT.

Houses inspected under the Housing Act	19
Houses found defective but not unfit for human habitation	19
Houses improved	14

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Premises Inspected	106	40	103	118	94	62
Defects Remedied	23	—	—	—	—	—
Nuisances found....	—	—	1	9	4	19
Nuisances abated	—	—	1	8	4	15
Notices given	22	—	1	4	12	19
Water Closets found defective	24	10	13	11	9	5
Water Closets remedied	12	8	10	3	8	3
New Water Closets constructed	—	—	2	13	6	2
Drains found defective	12	7	11	7	11	1
Defects in drains remedied	12	7	9	3	10	3
Drains reconstructed	—	—	3	7	2	4
Drain tests carried out	5	2	12	30	20	16
Houses disinfected	10	4	8	7	20	11
Visits to Workshops	6	4	1	1	5	1
Accumulations found	3	2	2	3	—	1
Accumulations removed	3	2	2	3	—	1
Visits to Bakehouses	19	1	—	13	3	2
Visits to Slaughterhouses	25	18	15	9	—	5
Visits to Dairies	2	3	2	17	6	3
Well condemned and town supply laid on	—	—	—	—	—	1

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(*a*)	Total	5
(*b*)	As part of Municipal Housing Scheme	Nil.

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

	Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses Inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Acts)	19
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of district) Regulations 1910	Nil.
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub heading) found not to be in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	19

2. Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notice.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	14

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT W. ALLAN, M.O.H.

R. T. STEWART,

Sanitary Inspector.